FINDING 4: ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Proposed False Claims Act Disclosure

Environmental conditions were documented throughout the reporting period to provide observational context for aerial observations. Contemporaneous field logs routinely recorded visibility, cloud cover, atmospheric conditions, air quality, and other environmental factors present during each observation session. Publicly available weather data, Air Quality Index (AQI) records, PM2.5 measurements, satellite imagery, and applicable Notices to Air Missions (NOTAMs) were incorporated into the chronology where relevant.

The chronology documents recurring periods of reduced visibility associated with haze, fog, or other atmospheric conditions during multiple observation periods. These conditions were recorded using contemporaneous field notes, photographs, videos, and publicly available environmental data. Where available, satellite imagery and weather products were preserved alongside direct observations to document the reported environmental conditions.

Air quality conditions were also documented throughout the investigation. The chronology includes AQI and particulate measurements from multiple locations, including observations made during interstate travel. Changes in reported air quality, visibility, and atmospheric conditions were recorded as contextual environmental information and correlated chronologically with other documented observations without assigning causation.

On approximately five documented occasions, fixed-wing aircraft were observed emitting a dark-colored material or trail visually distinguishable from the more commonly documented persistent visible trails. During these same observation periods, photographs and video recordings documented changes in the apparent visual characteristics of the observed aerial object(s), including increased contrast, enhanced visibility, and a shimmering appearance. These observations are preserved within the chronology as contemporaneously documented. This report does not identify the material observed or assign a causal relationship between the observed emissions and the contemporaneous visual changes.

Environmental conditions were documented not only at the primary observation location in Boone, North Carolina, but also during travel through multiple states, including South Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Arizona, Nevada, and the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. The chronology preserves these observations as recorded in order to document the environmental context present at each location and time.

This finding summarizes the recurring environmental conditions documented throughout the investigation. The chronology, photographs, videos, field logs, publicly available environmental records, satellite imagery, and supporting exhibits provide the detailed factual basis for these observations.